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HAILSHAM RURAL



DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1965

L. A. COLLINS, M.B., B.CH., D.P.M., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
HAILSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
1965

To the Chairman and Members of the Hailsham Rural District Council,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1965.

As this is the twentieth annual report that I have submitted to this Council, I have taken the opportunity to look back over the years and to observe certain changes in the pattern of public health.

Of course, if a population of a rural district increases by nearly fifty per cent in twenty years, it is only natural that the sewage works of the more urban areas should become overloaded. Again the bringing of main water to the more rural areas also gives rise to an added need for main drainage. Progress on this matter has been continuous throughout the year and there is an extensive planning programme for the future. It only remains to be seen how much delay will be caused by the economic situation of the country.

I am grateful for the hard work of all the staff of the Public Health Department, which has been ably led by Mr. L. E. Scott, the Chief Public Health Inspector. I would also like to mention the Chief Clerk, Mrs. P. Westgate, who has successfully carried out her various duties.

May I take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and all those Members of the Council who have taken an interest in the work of the Public Health Department during the year.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. A. COLLINS,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (part-time),
also School Medical Officer for East
Sussex County Council.

Dr. L. A. Collins, M.A., M.B.,
B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.M., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and
Meat and Food Inspector

L. E. Scott, Cert. S.I.B.,
Cert. M.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors
and Meat and Food Inspectors

M. F. Warman, Cert. S.I.B.,
Cert. M.I.
R. R. Creasey, Cert. S.I.B.,
Cert. M.I.
F.A.P.H.I.
A. J. Page, Cert. S.I.B.
Cert. M.I.

Student Public Health Inspector

P. Barton

Sanitary Assistant and Rodent Operator

J. F. Stanford

Rodent Operator

R. Cousins

Chief Clerk

Mrs. P. Westgate

General Assistant

Miss M. Locker (until 25.6.65)
Miss G. Hawkes (from 28.6.65)

Official Address

Public Health Department,
Cortlandt,
Hailsham.

Tel. No. Hailsham 1122

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The total number of notifications of infectious diseases received during the year was 670 as compared with 83 for the previous year. Of these 640 were cases of measles as this was an epidemic year for measles.

There were only four cases admitted to the isolation hospital and all these were for social reasons. Three cases of measles were removed to hospital from a foster home when the foster mother was taken ill and one case of infective hepatitis was removed to hospital from a boy's boarding school.

In the five years from 1946 to 1950 there were 197 admissions to the isolation hospital whereas in the last five years there have only been 22 admissions from a much increased population. This has freed beds for other purposes.

Measles

With 640 notifications of measles this was the largest epidemic of measles since 1959 when there were 804 cases. In 1964 there were only 28 cases. The epidemics of measles generally conform to a biennial pattern. The peak of this epidemic occurred in February but it continued until late July.

Whooping Cough

There were 10 cases of whooping cough compared with 19 cases in the previous year. Of these 10 cases five had been immunised and five had not been immunised against whooping cough.

During the last five years there has been a total of 64 cases of whooping cough compared with 386 cases for the five year period commencing 1946. Thus it seems that the immunisation campaign is having some effect in reducing the total numbers. The severity of the disease seems also to be reduced in those cases who have been immunised. It is also possible that a number of cases pass unrecognised owing to the mildness of the disease.

Scarlet Fever

There were 11 notifications of scarlet fever compared with 7 cases during the previous year. In the last five years there has been a total of 46 cases compared with 188 cases for the five year period from 1946. There have been no cases admitted to hospital during the last five years, whereas 104 cases were admitted during the five year period from 1946, and this number accounted for more than 50% of the hospital admissions during that period. It is agreed that during that period scarlet fever had already become much milder and the admission of all these cases to hospital was not completely necessary. In fact, scarlet fever today has become such a mild disease that it is doubtful whether notification serves a worthwhile purpose.

Food Poisoning

The three cases of food poisoning were all from one family and they were infected with *Salmonella typhi-murium*. Their doctor reported that two days previously they all had had lunch in a London café, but a fourth member of the family, who had not had lunch with them was unaffected. Unfortunately they could not remember the exact name of the café and, although the position was passed on to the London Borough concerned, it was later reported that it had not been possible to trace the café, but that no other cases of food poisoning had occurred.

A baby aged $1\frac{1}{2}$ years, who had been a carrier of *Salmonella panama* for over a year, was eventually shown to be free from infection.

Winter Vomiting Disease

Although this disease is not notifiable some 140 cases were reported from the schools during year.

Diphtheria

During the last eleven years there has been no case of diphtheria in the district. By 1946 the incidence of diphtheria had appreciably decreased throughout the country. However, there were four cases in this district in 1946 and 1947 but since then there has only been one case occurring in 1954, which was a truly imported case coming straight off a ship.

Poliomyelitis

There has been no case of poliomyelitis in the district during the last five years. There were 19 cases of poliomyelitis during the five year period from 1946. The reduction in number in general throughout the country can be partially attributed to the poliomyelitis vaccination scheme.

Tuberculosis

There were six new cases of respiratory tuberculosis and one new case of non-respiratory tuberculosis which is exactly the same as last year.

During the last five years, there have been 37 new cases and 15 deaths attributable to tuberculosis whereas in the five years from 1946 there were 220 new cases and 50 deaths and these occurred among much smaller population.

Throughout the country during the past twenty years tuberculosis deaths have fallen from 25,000 to under 3,000 a year.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

1963	Vaccinations	215	Re-vaccinations	204	Total	419
1964	Vaccinations	407	Re-vaccinations	263	Total	670
1965	Vaccinations	409	Re-vaccinations	50	Total	459

DIPHTHERIA, TETANUS AND PERTUSSIS IMMUNISATION

The administration of the immunisation schemes is centralised with the County Council, but normally I personally conduct most of the diphtheria immunisation clinics within the district. At these immunisation clinics the district nurses also give oral poliomyelitis vaccine. During the year regular clinics were held at Heathfield, Hailsham and Polegate and occasional clinics at Alfriston, Arlington, Broad Oak, Chiddingfold, Hankham, Hellingly, Laughton, Maynards Green, Punnetts Town, Selveston, Westham and Willingdon.

The recommended programme of immunisation as given by a Ministry of Health Circular of 1964 is as follows:-

<u>Approximate Age</u>	<u>Vaccine</u>
2 months	(Triple - Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis - 1st dose (Oral Poliomyelitis - 1st dose
3 months	(Triple - Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis - 2nd dose (Oral Poliomyelitis - 2nd dose
4 months	(Triple - Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis - 3rd dose (Oral Poliomyelitis - 3rd dose
12-24 months	Smallpox Vaccination
18-21 months	Triple - Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis - Booster
5 years	Diphtheria, Tetanus - Booster Oral Poliomyelitis - Booster
8 years	Smallpox re-vaccination
10 years	Diphtheria, tetanus - Booster
13 years	B.C.G.

The following figures are extracted from the return of the County Council to the Ministry of Health for the Rural District of Hailsham, for the year ended 31st December, 1965.

Table 1 - Completed Primary Courses - Number of persons under age 16

Type of vaccine or dose	Year of birth					Others under age 16	TOTAL
	1965	1964	1963	1962	1958-61		
1. Triple DTP	191	286	33	8	55	1	574
2. Diphtheria/Tetanus	-	3	-	1	1	14	19
3. Tetanus	-	-	-	-	-	10	10
Lines 1 + 2 (Diphtheria)	191	289	33	9	56	15	593
Lines 1 + 2 + 3 (Tetanus)	191	289	33	9	56	25	603

Table 2 - Reinforcing Doses - Number of persons under age 16

Type of vaccine or dose	Year of birth					Others under age 16	TOTAL
	1965	1964	1963	1962	1958-61		
1. Triple DTP	-	131	305	24	211	20	691
2. Diphtheria/Tetanus	-	2	1	3	236	94	336
3. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	6	121	127
4. Tetanus	-	-	-	-	2	13	15
Lines 1 + 2 + 3 (Diphtheria)	-	133	306	27	453	235	1,154
Lines 1 + 2 + 4 (Tetanus)	-	133	306	27	449	127	1,042

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

Section 47

No formal action was taken under the above Acts during the year. The circumstances of many old people living in unsatisfactory conditions were investigated. If persons required to be admitted to hospital or old people's homes it is better to use powers of persuasion rather than legal compulsion.

All the various voluntary associations are of great benefit in helping old people in their homes and tribute must be paid to all those home helps, who often work under very trying conditions.

Section 50

An elderly man who had been living with his wife in a caravan on an approved site for many years died towards the end of the year. As there was no other living relatives except the widow and as they had been in receipt of National Assistance benefit for the last ten years there was no money available to pay for the funeral.

Accordingly it was necessary for the Council to invoke their powers under this Section and arrange for the burial.

CANCER OF THE LUNG

This partially preventable disease continues to take its toll of lives. There were 33 deaths in this district compared with 32 in the previous year.

Cancer of the lung has been increasing throughout the country and there are now over 24,000 deaths each year from lung cancer whereas twenty years ago there were 8,000. In 1963 lung cancer accounted for thirteen per cent of all deaths of men in their fifties.

VITAL STATISTICS

The estimated middle year population has risen from 34,660 in 1946 to 48,230 in 1965. Of course, this increase does not represent any natural rise in the population as every year the number of deaths in the district far exceed the number of births. In fact this increase in population is due to an influx from other areas and consists mainly of people retiring into the district. Thus the population structure of the district is ageing and in order to make the actual death rate comparable to that of the rest of the rest of England and Wales it has to be reduced by a correcting factor whereas the birth rate has to be increased by a correcting factor. These comparability factors are produced by the General Register Office.

The corrected death rate was 10.2 per thousand compared with 10.1 for 1964 and 11.5 for the whole of England and Wales.

The corrected birth rate was 15.8 per thousand compared with 16.0 for 1964 and 18.1 for the whole of England and Wales.

The total infant deaths per thousand live births was 9.8 compared with 15.1 for 1964 and 19.0 for the whole of England and Wales which again was a record low number.

STATISTICS

Area in acres	94,668
Census population (1961)	42,420
Population estimated to middle year	48,230
Number of inhabited houses	17,841
Rateable value	£1,690,523
Sum represented by penny rate	£6,776.9s.8d.

Total deaths per 1,000 population (not corrected)	17.4
Comparability factor	0.59
Total deaths per 1,000 population (corrected)	10.2
Senile mortality as percentage of total deaths (65 and over)	77.4%
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	Nil

<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	576	286	290
Illegitimate	36	18	18
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	612	304	308
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Live births per 1,000 population (not corrected)	12.7
Comparability factor	1.25
Live births per 1,000 population (corrected)	15.8
Illegitimate live births per cent of total births	5.9

<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	13	8	5
Illegitimate	1	1	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	14	9	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Stillbirths per 1,000 live and stillbirths	22.4
Total live and stillbirths	626

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	6	3	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6	3	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Total deaths per 1,000 live births	9.8
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	10.4
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	4	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4	2	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) 6.5

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	4	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4	2	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) 6.5

Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and stillbirths) 28.8

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Infantile Mortality</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>
Hailsham Rural	15.8	9.8	10.2
England and Wales	18.1	19.0	11.5

CASES NOTIFIED OR ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL AND TOTAL DEATHS

Disease	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	11	-	-
Whooping Cough	10	-	-
Measles	640	3	-
Pneumonia	5	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	3	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	-	1	-

NUMBER OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL EACH MONTH

Disease	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS

Notifiable Diseases	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs	3 yrs	4 yrs	5-9 yrs	10-14 yrs	15-24 yrs	25 yrs & over	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	1	6	3	-	-	11
Whooping Cough	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	-	-	10
Measles	8	39	70	59	68	337	32	20	7	640
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	5
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3

TUBERCULOSIS

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-24 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-44 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-64 years	2	1	1	-	2	-	-	-
65 and over	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
	3	3	1	-	3	-	-	-

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease	-	1
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	2	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	9	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	30	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	18
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .	53	40
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	6
16. Diabetes	3	8
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	47	72
18. Coronary Disease, angina	116	77
19. Hypertension with heart disease	6	8
20. Other heart diseases	40	65
21. Other circulatory disease	11	19
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	13	32
24. Bronchitis	25	10
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	7	5
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	8	5
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	3
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	5	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	2	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	18	29
33. Motor vehicles accidents	2	2
34. All other accidents	4	10
35. Suicide	4	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
	<hr/> 414 <hr/>	<hr/> 424 <hr/>

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

Main water is supplied throughout the area by the Eastbourne Waterworks Company and the quality of the water supplied is proved by the many analyses to be of a high standard of purity.

Following the receipt of Circular 15/65 from the Ministry it was decided that the County Council be informed that this Council was not in favour of the fluoridation of water although all the sources of water supply for the district are deficient in natural fluoride.

During the year the Council agreed to carry out two further extensions of the water main to serve isolated groups of houses and farms in Arlington and Herstmonceux. It was necessary to seek capital contributions from the respective property owners in order to reduce the cost of the extension to reasonable proportions.

Extension of Mains

The following lengths of water main were laid in the Parishes of Alfriston, Arlington, Eastdean, East Hoathly, Folkington, Friston, Hailsham, Heathfield, Hellingly, Herstmonceux, Horam, Ninfield, Pevensey, Polegate, Westham and Willingdon mainly in connection with new building development.

191 yards of $\frac{3}{4}$ " main	1,399 yards of 5" main
910 yards of 1" main	40 yards of 6" main
770 yards of $1\frac{1}{4}$ " main	897 yards of 7" main
275 yards of $1\frac{1}{2}$ " main	39 yards of 9" main
414 yards of 2" main	6 yards of 10" main
1,552 yards of 3" main	134 yards of 12" main
4,003 yards of 4" main	226 yards of 15" main

Total length of new main laid is 10,856 yards or 6 miles 296 yards.

DISTRIBUTION OF SUPPLIES

The following table details the distribution of piped supplies and from which it will be seen that approximately 94.8% of the population is provided with main water.

Parish	Estimated Population Supplied by Public or Private Main	Number of houses supplied		
		By Public Main	By Stand Pipe	By Private Main
Alciston	129	25	-	23
Alfriston	530	252	-	-
Arlington	382	136	-	-
Berwick	271	83	-	10
Chalvington	129	45	-	-
Chiddingly	591	242	-	-
Eastdean	1,141	475	-	-
East Hoathly	542	201	-	-
Folkington	64	25	-	-
Friston	354	146	-	-
Hailsham	7,278	2,939	-	-
Heathfield	3,585	1,313	-	-
Hellingly	3,297	953	-	-
Herstmonceux	1,616	568	-	-
Hooe	260	102	-	-
Horam	1,749	598	-	-
Jevington	121	10	37	-
Laughton	544	116	-	-
Litlington	113	44	-	-
Lullington	33	15	-	-
Ninfield	1,162	427	-	-
Pevensey	2,985	1,425	-	-
Polegate	6,800	2,628	-	-
Ripe	398	66	-	-
Selmeston	97	36	-	-
Waldron	2,455	964	-	-
Warbleton	1,042	377	-	-
Wartling	430	150	-	-
Westdean	62	24	6	-
Westham	2,073	759	-	-
Willingdon	5,246	2,060	-	-
Wilmington	227	79	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	45,706	17,283	43	33
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

* Note - The figures for estimated population supplied by main, include residential caravan sites.

Drainage and Sewerage

In accordance with the Council's declared intention of speeding up the provision of sewers in those areas served by cesspools where nuisance and pollution of streams occur, 1965 was truly a year of planning and preparation of schemes for sewers and sewerage disposal works and, although very little works were actually carried out, this planning should show material results within the next five years.

With the continued and at times intensive building development in the sewered areas of the district some sewers became overloaded with the result that in time of heavy rainfall flooding of gardens occurred. Additionally it became increasingly clear that the sewage works at Hailsham, Heathfield and Horam were also grossly overloaded and incapable of dealing effectively with the additional flow of sewage. In view of the difficulty of recruiting suitable engineering staff, consultants were engaged to report upon and to deal with part of the problem of sewerage and sewage disposal and at the end of the year the position was as follows:-

Consultants Programme

1. A programme for the provision of sewers for Upper Dicker, Lower, Dicker, Horsebridge, Hellingly (part), and northern Hailsham, (Amberstone, Carters Corner, Magham Down) together with a new sewage disposal plant was submitted to the Ministry for approval, grant and loan sanction. Estimated cost of scheme £430,000.
2. A scheme for the expansion and modernisation of the existing sewage works at Hailsham to deal with present and proposed populations together with some new sewers was submitted to the Ministry for approval, grant and loan sanction. Estimated cost £268,000.
3. Consultants engaged to report upon the sewage disposal works at Heathfield, Horam and Broad Oak. Their report is expected early in 1966.
4. A scheme for the provision of sewers for the small community at Lunsford Cross, Ninfield together with a new sewage disposal plant was submitted to the Ministry for approval, grant and loan sanction. Estimated cost £51,727.

Staff Programme

1. Work commenced in October on the provision of new sewers and sewage disposal plant for the Parish of Wilmington at a cost of £29,325. It is expected that the scheme will be completed towards the end of 1966.
2. A scheme for the provision of sewers for the parishes of Ninfield (with the exception of Lunsford Cross) and parts of Hooe together with a new sewage disposal plant was submitted to the Ministry for approval, grant and loan sanction. Estimated cost £181,900.
3. A scheme for the provision of a plant for the heated digestion of sludge at Polegate Sewage Works was submitted to the Ministry for approval in view of the considerable difficulties being experienced in the treatment and disposal of sludge from these works. Estimated cost £30,000.
4. At the request of the Eastbourne Waterworks Company who were proposing to bring back into use a former borehole at Wannock Glen which had unfortunately become polluted quite obviously from nearby houses at Filching, a scheme for the provision of sewers for this small community was submitted to the Ministry for approval, grant and loan sanction. Estimated cost £21,000.
5. Work commenced in October on the laying of a short extension of the sewer to serve the Council houses and a few other nearby properties at Stone Cross, Westham and should be completed early in 1966. Cost £3,207.
6. Schemes were being prepared for the enlargement of overloaded sewers to prevent flooding and overflow of sewage and it is hoped that this necessary work will be carried out in 1966.
7. A scheme for the provision of sewers was being prepared for Cross-in-Hand.

It is to be hoped that the Ministry will not long delay their decision on the applications for approval, grant and loan sanction which have already been submitted as the provision of sewers and sewage works or enlargement of existing sewage works is long overdue.

Removal of Night Soil, Alfriston

The earth closets or Elsan Closets at the eleven remaining occupied properties in this Parish were converted into water closets early in the year with the aid of contributions from the Council in accordance with Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936. It was therefore possible to discontinue the collections of night soil by the 31st March, 1965.

There remain a few earth closets at the unoccupied cottages which are the subject of Closing Orders. It is anticipated that during the next few months these cottages will be modernised and the closets converted into water closets.

Public Cleansing

With the advent of a further vehicle it was possible to extend the weekly collection of refuse to the parishes of East Hoathly, Heathfield, Horam and Waldron as from the 4th January, 1965.

A weekly collection of refuse is, therefore, now made in the parishes of Alfriston, Eastdean, East Hoathly, Friston, Hailsham, Heathfield, Hellingly, Herstmonceux, Horam, Jevington, Ninfield, Pevensey, Polegate, Westham and Willingdon whilst a fortnightly collection operates in the remainder of the district which is quite rural in character. It is estimated that 89.5% of the houses in the rural district receive a weekly collection.

Consideration of a weekly collection in the whole area was deferred until 1967 following the receipt of Circular 62/65 from the Ministry regarding the slowing down of expenditure.

With the continued building development it was necessary to purchase an additional vehicle in August to meet the expansion and to maintain the regular collection of refuse.

At the end of the year the fleet consisted of four Dennis Paxit Majors, three Shelvoke and Drewry Pakamatics and two Dennis Paxits. All vehicles are of the modern compression type and fitted with bodies of varying capacities from 24 cubic yards to 50 cubic yards. In addition a 16 year old 10 cubic yard side-loader is stationed at Hellingly Hospital where it is filled by their staff and removed by the Council's staff three times per week.

The labour force including the foreman mechanic and the driver of the Bray Mechanical Shovel consisted of 39 men.

The cost of refuse collection and disposal for the financial year ended 31st March, 1966 was £44,452, the equivalent of a rate in the pound of 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

It is estimated that 10,826 tons of refuse were collected and this represents 12.3 cwts per 1,000 head of population per day. During the year it became increasingly evident that suitable labour could neither be recruited nor retained due mainly to rates of pay in the building and other industries being somewhat higher.

In fact the only labour that could be recruited were men around 60 years of age who, although willing, were not capable of sustained physical effort. As a result the Council decided to carry out a work study with a view to the introduction of an Incentive Bonus Scheme and such work study was completed by the end of the year. The conclusion was reached by the Work Study Officer that the refuse collection section may be regarded as working at a 100 performance and it is considered that the Council is receiving a fair return for the labour cost involved. The question of the introduction of an Incentive Bonus Scheme is to be considered early in 1966.

The special free collection of junk and unwanted articles of furniture etc. continued and during the year no less than 809 special collections were made when every conceivable item found in the normal household ranging from pianos, beds, cookers, refrigerators, old settees, cupboards, water tanks, etc. was collected. The service has been much appreciated and a diminution in the amount of junk deposited on the highway verges and beauty spots has been noted, and in fact it was only necessary to collect eight such accumulations of junk from various road-side verges.

The problem of abandoned cars on the roadside verge has not presented a large problem and it was only necessary to remove three such vehicles. The Council have entered into an agreement with a local car breaker for the removal of abandoned cars at a cost of £2. per car. Undoubtedly with the many old cars on the roads the problem of their disposal will increase yearly.

Leap Cross Depot

During the year five additional garages together with a drying room and a toilet block were erected at the main depot at Leap Cross, Hailsham.

Refuse Disposal

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at two sites, namely (1) the Old Brickyard at Chiddingly Road, Horam and (2) Ghyll Road, Heathfield the latter tip being used solely for the refuse from the four neighbouring parishes.

The tipping at Broad Farm Tip, Hellingly ceased at the end of March and the site then received the final cover of soil. It is anticipated that the Old Brickyard, Chiddingly Road, Horam will be in use as a refuse tip until 1st April, 1967 when the large depression there will be filled and restored to agricultural land.

It has become increasingly difficult to find suitable sites for the disposal of refuse by controlled tipping and some thought has been given to the pulverisation of refuse and subsequent tipping onto waste or barren land, but no conclusions have yet been reached as to whether or not this type of refuse disposal should be introduced.

No manual labour is employed at the tips and all work is carried out by the Bray four-wheel drive mechanical shovel and this machine has proved invaluable in ensuring that the refuse is properly dealt with and covered.

Street Scavenging

Street cleaning by direct labour continues to be carried out in the Parishes of Hailsham, Heathfield, Herstmonceux, Horam, Pevensey, Polegate, Waldron, Westham and Willingdon and five men are employed. The Council decided to extend this service to further parishes in 1966 and to employ a further three men. It is hoped that with a labour force of eight men that all built up areas in the Rural District can be kept clean and tidy.

Despite Anti-Litter Campaigns which are run each year it seems that little progress is being made in educating the general public to either take their litter home or to place it in one of the many litter bins that are provided. When one sees the amount of litter left daily by the public in our streets one wonders whether they do in fact wish to have their streets clean and tidy.

Cesspool Emptying

This service continues as in former years, i.e. one cesspool emptying vehicles operates in the parishes of Heathfield, Horam and Waldron where the cost is met by a special rate levied in those parishes whilst the other two vehicles empty cesspools in the remainder of the district on payment of charges. During the year an old vehicle was replaced by a new 1,100 gallon Shelvoke and Drewry cesspool emptying vehicle.

The opportunity was then taken of transferring the existing 1,000 gallon cesspool emptying vehicle from the Heathfield area to the District Scheme and the charges for emptying were then increased to £1.7s.6d. for the first load and £1. for every subsequent load or part load taken at the same time of emptying. This is the first increase in the charges since the service was brought into being in 1949. For some years it had been necessary to subsidise the cost of the cesspool emptying scheme out of the general rate fund. For the year ended 31st March, 1966, the contribution from the general rate fund amounted to £1,415.

Although some progress is being made with the laying of sewers and the provision of sewage works for the first time it is quite apparent that the number of cesspools within the area is increasing and the time is not distant when a further vehicle must be purchased. Throughout the year it has been very necessary for much overtime to be worked on the District Scheme in order that a reasonably prompt service could be given.

Disposal of cesspool contents is normally on agricultural land or woodland remote from houses and streams and in winter months great difficulty has again been experienced in finding suitable land, with the result that long journeys to disposal sites have had to be made.

The Consultants, Messrs. J. D. and D. M. Watson who are preparing sewerage schemes for the Council have been asked to provide suitable disposal facilities for cesspool contents at the new proposed works for northern Hailsham and again at Horam when the works are modernised. Details of the work carried on by the three vehicles are as follows:-

	<u>Cesspools Emptied</u>	<u>Loads Removed</u>
Heathfield, Horam and Waldron	1,250	2,070 $\frac{1}{2}$
District Scheme	2,689	4,615

Housing

It is pleasing to report the best year for the erection of Council dwellings for at least ten years. During the year a block of four double flats and 34 single flats for the housing of the elderly together with accommodation for a resident care-taker was completed at Hailsham, nineteen dwellings consisting of three one bedroomed bungalows and 16 two bedroomed bungalows completed at Farmlands Way, Polegate whilst a start was made on the erection of 43 houses at Horam and 32 houses at Southfield, Polegate. Eighteen houses at Horam and six houses at Polegate were also completed by the end of the year.

The completion of the block of flatlets for the elderly at Hailsham has done much to deal with the problem of elderly widows or spinsters living in rooms or in houses on their own. The fortunate ones have much appreciated the flats which allow them to retain their independence and at the same time to have the company of people of their own age.

Good progress was also made with the slum clearance programme and details are given later in this report of the number of houses demolished or closed and the number of families rehoused. A fresh look at the problem was taken in April following the receipt of Circular 11/65 from the Ministry when it appeared that there were still 112 unfit houses to be dealt with under the Slum Clearance Programme.

Planning is now going ahead on the erection of a large number of houses at Town Farm, Hailsham. It is hoped that when these houses are erected during the next two to three years that the majority of the slum clearance houses can be dealt with. The housing problem of the many young families living in rooms and who are and have been on the Council's housing list for some considerable time will also be partially solved.

Many of the families on the Council's housing list are in the lower income groups and it is quite impossible for them to purchase their own houses and they must wait until the Council can provide them with suitable accommodation. At the end of the year the number of applicants on the housing list was 634.

During the year 79 applications were received for Discretionary Grants and of this number 73 were approved, 2 refused and 4 applications withdrawn. The average amount of grant per dwelling was approximately £305.

Of the 73 Discretionary Grants approved, 45 were in respect of houses owner-occupied whilst 28 were in respect of agricultural service cottages or properties let at controlled rentals. Forty two applications for Standard Grants were also approved during the year and these were mainly in respect of houses owner-occupied. Repayment with interest was made in respect of seven grants approved in former years.

Two applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received and details are given below in the following statement. Little interest seems to have been taken by the many controlled tenants in the Rent Act, 1957 and the Act has not in this district fulfilled the intentions of the Government when it was introduced, i.e. that the rent increase should assist owners in putting their properties, which were let at controlled rentals, in good repair.

PART I - APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

(1)	Number of applications for certificates	...	...	...	...	2
(2)	Number of decisions not to issue certificates	...	...	...		Nil
(3)	Number of decisions to issue certificates	...	...	...	...	2
	(a) in respect of some but not all defects	...	...	...		2
	(b) in respect of all defects	...	...	...	...	Nil
(4)	Number of Undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	...	...	...	2
(5)	Number of Undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	...	...	...	Nil
(6)	Number of Certificates issued	...	...	...	...	Nil

PART II - APPLICATIONS FOR CANCELLATION OF CERTIFICATES

(7)	Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(8)	Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	...	...					Nil
(9)	Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants objection	...						Nil
10)	Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	...	...	...	...			Nil

HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of houses demolished during the year as a result of formal or informal procedure	12
Number of houses closed under Section 16 (4) and 17(1) of the Housing Act, 1957	17
Number of families re-housed by Local Authority from houses the subject of Demolition or Closing Orders	19
Number of houses made fit after formal action under the Public Health Acts	-
Number of houses made fit after formal action under Section 9 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1957	1
Number of houses made fit under Section 24 of the Housing Act, 1957	3

Noise Abatement

The public seem ever conscious of noise nuisance and during the year there were many complaints received of alleged nuisance from noise. The complaints referred to the barking of dogs, the operation of circular saws, factory machinery, wireless sets tuned rather loudly and other items. In some cases the complaints were justified and improvements were effected without the necessity of statutory action.

Animal Boarding Establishments

Since the coming into operation of the Animal Boarding Establishment Act, 1963, six licences have been issued in respect of various premises situated within the District. The establishments are all well conducted and well designed and the animals are kept under satisfactory conditions.

An application for a licence in respect of one establishment was refused by the Council in view of the fact that nearby residents had complained bitterly of a noise nuisance from the barking of dogs. Subsequently on appeal the Magistrates decided that a licence be issued.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

This Act which came into force on the 1st May, 1964 makes provision for the safety, health and welfare of persons employed to work in offices, shops or railway premises. The Act makes it obligatory for employers to register with the Local Authority and by the end of the year 368 offices and shops had registered with this Authority.

As is to be expected in an area of this nature the offices and shops are relatively small and often scattered throughout the district with the number of employees per premises ranging from one to fifteen the average being only three employees.

Of a total of some 1,500 business premises it is estimated that only one third of that number need to be registered under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963. Although considerable publicity has been given to the Act it is thought that at least 100 occupiers of such premises have failed to register. Steps are again being taken to ensure registration of all those premises affected by the Act.

It has been found that many of the occupiers of the smaller premises as well as the employees have little knowledge of this Act but gradually their responsibility and/or benefits are being explained to them.

Generally it has been found that nearly all the registered premises were without first aid boxes and thermometers whilst many premises lacked hot water supplies, wash hand basins and adequate heating.

In the majority of cases adequate sanitary accommodation has been available but in some of the offices and shops employing more than five persons of mixed sexes the sanitary accommodation was insufficient. The occupier of one such shop employing five women and one man met the request for additional sanitary accommodation by immediately reducing his staff to five persons. Lack of cleanliness and overcrowding were rarely met but only a few premises were provided with proper facilities for drying clothing.

A necessity for guarding gravity feed bacon slicers has been discussed with several shopkeepers and also referred to the manufacturers of the machines but as yet no improvements have been achieved.

Despite circularising all occupiers of registered premises regarding the necessity to display an abstract or to provide every employee with a booklet setting out the main aspects of the Act, it seems that many have as yet failed to comply.

There have been no real problems to date and generally the occupiers of registered premises have co-operated fairly well with the department and have lost little time in improving their premises to comply with the various requirements of the Act.

Regular inspections of registered premises were carried out throughout the year where necessary in conjunction with inspections under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960 although in view of the scope and implications of so comprehensive an Act a number of premises still await a primary inspection.

Certain statistical matter and reports have to be given to the Ministry of Labour concerning special aspects of the Act and this year a survey of lighting standards in these premises was carried out.

This revealed in general a very poor standard of lighting from inadequate, badly positioned fittings especially in office premises. Standards of lighting in the selling areas was in general average to good although this standard is of course stressed by advertising companies, shopkeepers associations and is intended primarily to draw customers to the sales regions.

Unfortunately this standard is not met in some of the more isolated shops that rely on a more regular trade. The standard for stock rooms, packing departments and preparation rooms is sadly below that for the few areas to which the public resort.

It has been proved beyond doubt that work output aside from other benefits is greatly enhanced in well designed, light and bright premises although it will not be until these economic facts are fully appreciated by employers that the standards will be improved.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964

The above Act which came into force on the 1st April, 1965 required that every person who carried on a business as a scrap metal dealer should be registered with a local authority. By the end of the year 36 dealers had been registered with the Council.

Caravan Sites

The caravan sites within the area continue to be well maintained and equipped. The large sites both holiday and residential comply with the model standards issued by the Ministry. At the end of the year the number of caravan sites was as follows. The largest site has standings for 364 caravans.

Number of caravans on site	1	2	3	4/14	15 & over
Number of sites	77	8	2	5	13

The residential site at Lion House, Hailsham where the Council by agreement have the right to nominate the tenants for standings, again proved most useful for dealing with caravans on unauthorised sites. At the end of the year there were 41 caravans on this particular site.

Difficulty was again experienced with the parking of caravans especially during the winter months on roadside verges, common land, etc. by itinerants, gypsies and others and the Council did decide that a search should be made for suitable land for use as a site for such people. It seems necessary for such a site so that the anti-social habits of these classes can be rectified and also that the children can at least have some education. It has recently been brought to my notice that the children of these itinerants although of school age were unable to read or write.

The present day caravan, which is well constructed, equipped with its own bath, shower, water closet, etc. is a great advance over the caravan of ten years ago which was mainly constructed of hardboard and suffered seriously from condensation during the winter months but even so, I still cannot think it is suitable for the family with two or three children as a permanent residence.

Milk and Dairies

The figure of 56 retailers registered in the district is really a false indication of the number delivering to the consumers doorstep as two firms alone supply milk to the majority of the residents in the area. Many grocers stock about a gallon a day as a service to their customers.

Samples of untreated and heat treated milks continue to be sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Brighton.

The results are summarised below.

<u>Biological Examination</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>
Infected with B. abortus	-
Infected with B. melitensis	-
Infected with M. Tuberculosis	-
Satisfactory	31
	—
	31
	—

Methylene Blue Test

	<u>Untreated</u>	<u>Pasteurised</u>
Satisfactory	15	1
Unsatisfactory	4	-
	—	—
	19	1
	—	—

<u>Penicillin Test</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>
Satisfactory	29

It is gratifying to note that all the samples tested for penicillin traces were satisfactory.

Food Inspection

The six slaughterhouses in operation were again licenced by the Council but none are licenced for the slaughter of horses. There are no knackers yards in operation in the area. The Council has not yet been informed of any decision by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on the application made in September, 1962 by a large exporter to use premises at New Barn Farm, Hooe. Considerable numbers of live cattle, sheep and pigs were exported during the year.

Slaughtering continued to take place on six days a week and periodically on Sundays, necessitating overtime on meat inspection on many days. Throughput at the wholesale premises again showed an increase over the year.

During the year 100% inspection was maintained and the following animals were examined:- 7 bulls, 697 steers, 437 cows, 1,075 heifers, 851 calves, 12,121 pigs and 4,827 sheep, a rise of 1,308 over the figures of 1964.

It is interesting to compare this figure with that of 20 years ago in 1945 - 1 bullock, 1 sheep and 140 pigs - this was, of course, in the days of rationing.

Inspection of meat and other foods resulted in some 36,274 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs of various food being found to be unfit for human consumption, the figure for 1945 was 4,013 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. The 1965 figure included the carcasses of 29 cattle, 17 calves, 37 sheep, 34 pigs and 3,013 head of poultry. The last and apparently very high figure was influenced by the loss of birds - 1,368 - following the breakdown of a chicken packer's refrigerator.

The cattle and produce markets together with the poultry packing plants receive regular visits. A small minority of the food premises are a blot on the reputation enjoyed by the majority of the owners of premises regarding the way they are kept.

Fortunately it was not found necessary to take any legal proceedings following complaints regarding allegedly unsound foods. The complaints included a snail in a packet of frozen peas and cigarette end in a gingerbread man, proceedings were instituted by the Food and Drugs Authority in this case and a fine of £15. imposed on the firm concerned.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and
Condemned in Whole or Part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep Lambs Kids	Pigs
Number killed	1,779	437	851	4,827	12,121
Number Inspected	1,779	437	851	4,827	12,121
<u>All diseases, except Tuberculosis & Cysticerchi</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	5	24	17	37	34
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	266	63	9	104	597
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or cysticerchi.	15.2	19.9	3.0	2.91	5.2
<u>Tuberculosis only -</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	35
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	0.2
<u>Cysticercosis -</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrig- eration.	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS OF FOOD PREMISES

	<u>No. of Inspections</u>
Bakehouses	23
Butchers' Shops	98
Cafés, etc.	59
Fish Shops	56
Greengrocers	44
Grocers and General Stores	125
Hawkers	27
Public Houses and Guest Houses	32
Sweet Shops	6
Ice Cream Sellers	58
	<hr/>
Total	528
	<hr/>

Rodent Control

The most pleasing aspect of rodent control is the continued decline in major infestations and during 1965 no major infestation was found. Undoubtedly the decline is due to the readiness of the public to avail themselves of the free service and advice as soon as a rodent is observed.

Again it has been noticed that badly run and sited compost heaps and wild bird feeding in gardens has attracted rats in search of food and housing.

The new sewers in Alfriston and East Hoathly were found to have small infestations and there is no doubt that the rats gained access to the sewers via old drains connected to the sewers. After treatment and re-testing the sewers have been found to be free from infestation.

Warfarin resistant mice were found in large numbers in a bakery but perseverance with traps eventually succeeded in ridding the premises.

Many of the farmers have entered into contracts with private firms for regular treatment of their premises with satisfactory results.

The various picnic sites adjoining the A 22 and A 27 were again infested although not to such an extent as in previous years.

No Statutory Notices under Section 4 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 were served.

Number of properties inspected (including re-inspections)

Non-agricultural	4,384
Agricultural	602

Number of Infestations found - Rats and Mice

Non-agricultural	(a)	Major	-
	(b)	Minor	724
Agricultural	(a)	Major	-
	(b)	Minor	3

Number of treatments (including re-treatments)

Non-agricultural	780
Agricultural	5

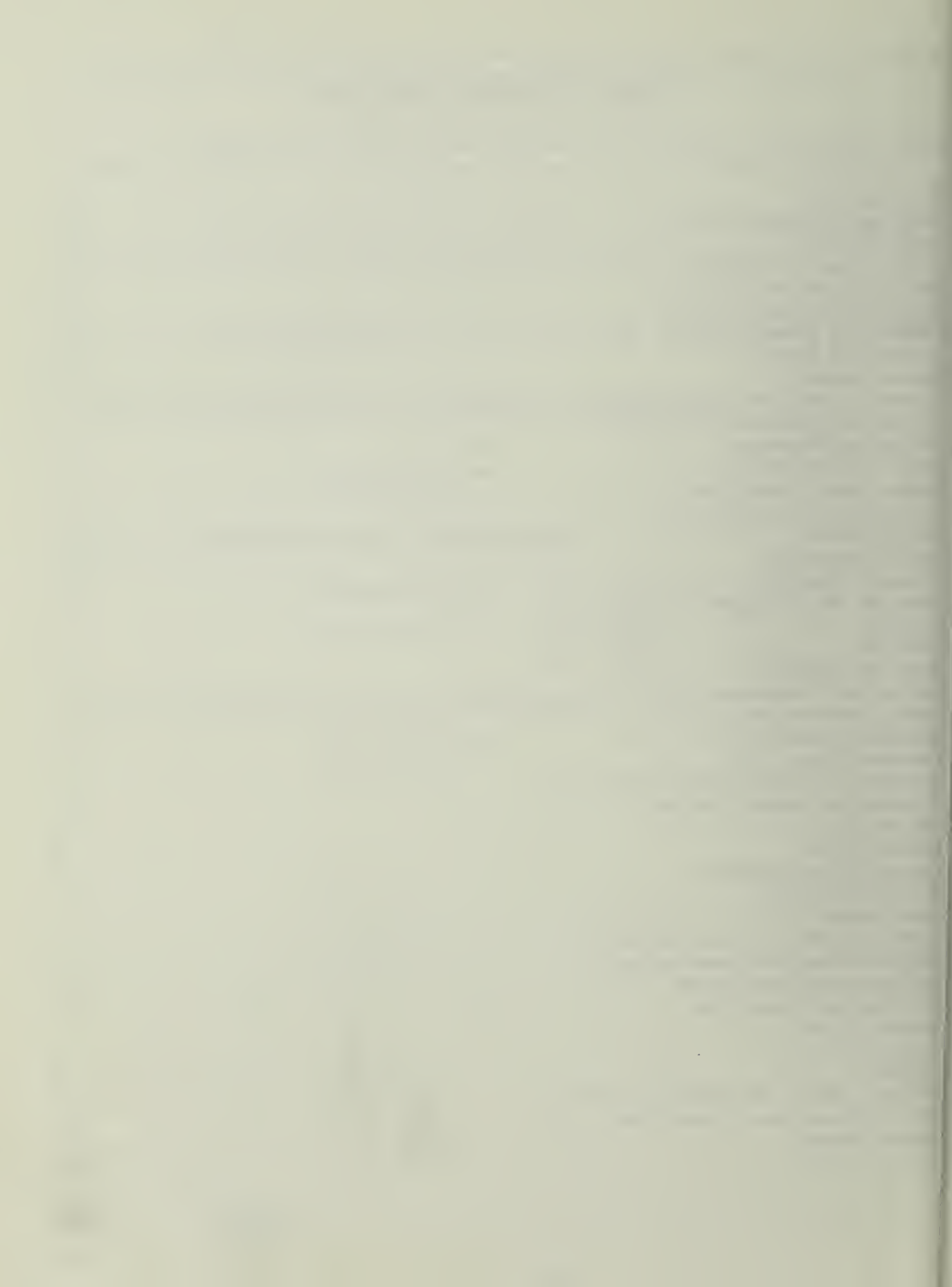
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SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS

Housing Acts	351
Housing Act reinspections	463
Complaints	164
Public Health Nuisances	271
Public Health reinspections	246
Offensive accumulations	29
Keeping of Animals, Birds, etc	100
Drains and sewers	556
Drains tested	69
Closet accommodation	26
Verminous premises dealt with	15
Infectious Diseases	14
Rooms disinfected	6
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	495
Pollution of watercourses	63
Water sources	103
Public cleansing	1,086
Cesspool Emptying	274
Rats and Mice destruction	944
Schools	1
Markets	68
Milk and Dairies	45
Factories, Workshops, etc.	66
Smoke observations and visits	15
Slaughterhouses	1,358
Knackers Yards	-
Meatshops, fish and fruit shops, etc.	195
Grocers and General Stores	125
Bakehouses	23
Bakers shops	10
Catering Establishments	59
Ice Cream Sellers	58
Sweet Shops	6
Hawkers' premises and vehicles	37
Public houses and guest houses	32
Poultry packing stations	78
Housing applicants, etc.	300
Licensing Act	4
Rent Act	9
Planning	46
Offices, Shops and Railway premises	209
Flies, Wasps, Bees, Ants, etc	171
Miscellaneous	209

Total

8,399



APPENDIX

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1965 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF HAILSHAM IN THE COUNTY OF EAST SUSSEX

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

PART 1 of the Act

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	10	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	224	70	-	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	26	-	-	-
Total	261	80	-	-

2 - Cases in which defects were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Sanitary conveniences (a) Insufficient (S.7)	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	2	-	1	-
Total	2	3	-	1	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Section 133 & 134)

	Section 133			Section 134		
Nature of Work (1)	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel 5 (Making etc. cleaning & washing)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Household linen. 6	-	-	-	-	-	-